USJ celebrates exceptional college students’ achievements

Meet the USJ 2021 Undergraduate Award Recipients

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (April 30, 2021) – USJ’s annual undergraduate awards recognize student accomplishments in a variety of academic areas, and shine a spotlight on their dedication and commitment to scholarship. While the USJ community couldn’t come together in person to celebrate these students, each student was able to accept the award in person with President Free, Provost Kalis, and the student’s Dean. The University of Saint Joseph today released the list of the 2021 Undergraduate Award recipients.

“We set high standards for our students and they were undaunted by the challenges of a global pandemic in achieving their own academic, professional, and personal goals,” said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. “We join the families of these students in applauding their commitment to academic excellence and scholarship and look forward to celebrating their successes in the future.”

These exceptional students, who strive for academic excellence and leadership, were selected to receive honors this year:

*School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education – Dean Raouf Boules, Ph.D.*

**Biology**
Sr. Maria Benigna Johnson Founders’ Award*: Michaela Romie
Sr. Mary Consuela Mulcahy Founders’ Award*: Sophia Marler
Biology Leadership Award: Elizabeth Strout

**Business Administration**
Sr. Mary Joseph Mark McGurkin Founders’ Award*: Filamena Vukaj
Sr. Eileen Macllvain Award: Bradford Jameson Landry
Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award: Percy Chen

**Chemistry**
Sr. Mary Consilia Hannan Founders’ Award*: Emily Matukaitis
American Chemical Society Analytical Chemistry Award: Corinna Cabral
CRC Press General Chemistry Achievement Award: Ayesha Nazir
American Chemical Society Organic Chemistry Award: Maria Sophia Padilla
American Chemical Society Outstanding Senior Organic Chemistry Award: Lauren Lewicki
Connecticut Valley Section of the American Chemical Society Award: Lauren Lewicki
American Institute of Chemists Foundation Award: Lauren Lewicki
American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry: Timothy Moy
Culture, Arts, and Languages
Sr. Mary Irene O'Connor Founders' Award*: Marielle Juliette LeFebvre
Art History Award: Alicia Smith
Dance Award: Nicole Aquavia
Music Award: Marielle Juliette LeFebvre
Studio Art Award: Wendy Gaudiosi
Dr. Jorge Casals Book Award: Emily Marie Luna

Education/Special Education
Sr. Mary Consolata Blake Founders' Award*: Grace Sheldon
Barbara Lake McKillop Award:
• Catherine Baum
• Mackenzie Wilson
Professional Practice Award in Special Education: Anna Chevarella
Teacher Certification Program Achievement Award in Secondary Education: Amanda Thiel

English
Sr. Maria Ancilla Sullivan Founders' Award*: Samantha L. Brey
Queenes Companye Award: Matthew J. Plona

History and Society
Sr. Mary Agatha Walsh Founders’ Award*: Joseph Islam
Sr. Mary Rose deLima Nolan Founder's Award: Jazaira Perez-Acevedo
History Department Recognition of Achievement Award: Lily Stilson

Mathematical Sciences
Dora and Antonio Iadarola Award: Nicole Martula
Elizabeth Markham Award: Noah Fitzgerald
Mathematics Senior Award:
• Amanda Thiel
• Megan Burke

School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science – Dean Betsy Francis-Connolly, Ph.D.

Human Development and Family Studies
Sr. Mary deLourdes Kenny Founders’ Award*: Abigail Horner
The Book Award for Excellence in Child Study: Alessandra Milardo

Nursing
Professional Practice Award in the Undergraduate Clinical Nursing Practice:
• Ololade Adeyemi
• Amanda Pelletier
Nightingale Award in Undergraduate Nursing: Jillian Smith
Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award: Leigh Hrinda
Peer Leadership Award in Undergraduate Nursing Leadership: Ololade Adeyemi
CT League for Nursing Peer Recognition Award in Undergraduate Nursing: Alexis Wainer
**Nutrition**
The Sallie Rorer Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Dietetics: Hanna Pryhazhayeva

**Psychology**
Rene Bouchard Award for Excellence:
- Shaniyah Williams
- Nicole Aquavia

Maureen Travis Research Award: Nathair Spencer
Tonya Rondinone Writing Award: Tamara Chuchro

**Public Health**
Dr. Sara Josephine Baker Award for Excellence in Public Health: Samantha Lamkins

**Social Work & Equitable Community Practice**
Antonia Pantoja Award: Maria Holgado-Zuniga
Carol E. Gourlie Award in Social Work Field Practice:
- Shannon Michelson
- Xaviera Davis

Outstanding Academic Achievement and Community Engagement in Social Work: Samantha Nunes

**Academic Affairs**
Beth Bye Early Childhood Education Award: Mikaila Masterson
Symposium Day Award: Lauren Lewicki
Award for Excellence in Peer Writing Tutoring and Academic Leadership: Hanna Pryhazhayeva
Award for Excellence in Peer Content Tutoring: Hanna Pryhazhayeva
Writing Portfolio Excellence Award:
- Ololade Adeyemi
- Shenelle Anderson
- Nicole Aquavia
- Megan Burke
- Brittany Damone
- Hannah DeMaio
- Deanna Humennyj
- Sarah Lew
- Rachell Maldonado
- Merin Mary Mathews
- Emily McAllister
- Michaela Romie
- Mallory Schultz
- Nathair Spencer

Cook Scholar Award:
- Mercedes Gapko
- Merin Mary Mathews
- Krystine D. Oliveira
- Michaela Romie
- Shaniyah Williams
Honors Award:
- Shenelle Anderson
- Nicole Aquavia
- Samantha Brey
- Megan Burke
- Corina Cabral
- Dylaney Cianci
- Rochelle Clarke
- Symantha Fazzino
- Kristen Frank
- Lexis Lewis
- Daniela Magalhaes
- Maria Nguyen
- Jess Repass
- Michaela Romie
- Hanna Silverwatch
- Kensington Vanhouten
- Shaniyah Williams
- Jamie Wyman

**Student Affairs Awards - Leadership, Service and Scholar Athlete Awards**

Campus Ministry Award: Alexis Wainer
Cardarelli Senior Scholar Athlete Award: Alessandra Milardo
Blue Jay Senior Student Athlete Award: Alise Martel
Nancy Spada Leadership Award: Aminah Tsonga
Dedication to Student Activities Award: Joseph Colaccino
Kappa Gamma Pi: Ololade Adeyemi
Sr. Mary Theodore Kelleher Award in Leadership:
Jessica Marcos
Sr. Mary Rose McDonough Award in Relationship of Learning to Life: Iyanna Harris

The Saint Catherine Medal: Anna Hendrickson

*Founders’ Award: Since 1969, the University has presented awards in honor of the University’s Founding Sisters and is proud to continue in the tradition of encouraging the University of Saint Joseph students to strive for academic excellence and leadership.*

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